

has known and has been in continuous use for 171 years. Hand-hewn and built to stand the test of time, the church remains a beautifully simplistic structure.

Formally incorporated as a Congregational Church in 1873, Lyme Congregational U.C.C. calls itself "A Family Church Where All Are Welcome" and this motto rings as true today as at the church's founding. Families have grown and maintained the church through many markers of history: It was founded less than 10 years after the first settlers arrived in the Firelands of Northwest Ohio and only 2 years after the first people came to Bellevue. It was standing for 6 years already when the Erie Canal opened, and 16 years when Oberlin College—the first in the U.S. to admit women and African Americans—was established. The church continued in witness to history as our Nation passed through the Civil War, the joining of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1886, the Wright Brothers' Kitty Hawk flight in 1903, the introduction of the Model T Ford, World War I, the Suffrage of Women in 1919, World War II, the Korean War, the dawn of the space program, the first moon walk in 1969, the Vietnam War and the tragic shootings at Kent State University nearby, the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York in 2001, two Gulf Wars and United Nations missions, from telegraph to telephone to cellular phones, from the writing of letters to radio to television to computers and digital cameras. Through all of these incredible changes in one continuous thread of history, 36 ministers have led this flock. The members celebrate their history and have carefully preserved artifacts and documents from the church's founding nearly two centuries ago.

In the Book of Psalms in the Holy Bible Psalm 100 tells Christians, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations." Few congregations can attest to the message in this Scripture as well as that of Lyme Congregational United Church of Christ. I am very pleased to acknowledge this anniversary celebration and join in a remembrance of the past, reflection of the present, and hope for the future.

HONORING MR. CHARLES TISDALE
FEARLESS CHAMPION OF CIVIL
RIGHTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of Mr. Charles Tisdale, a fearless champion of civil rights within the African-American community. Mr. Tisdale was the owner of The Jackson Advocate Newspaper, which gave a voice to African-Americans in Jackson and throughout the state of Mississippi.

Charles Tisdale, an Alabama native who fought for civil rights as owner and publisher

of Mississippi's oldest black-owned newspaper was born November 5, 1926, in Athens, Alabama. Tisdale purchased The Jackson Advocate in 1978 from the newspaper's first owner, Percy Green. For 20 years, Mr. Tisdale's influential talk show on WMPR in Jackson, often took elected leaders, both black and white, to task for not effectively serving their communities.

Mr. Tisdale was not only a civil rights activist but a front-line leader. He did not write from a dark room but led several marches, putting his life in danger to advance the civil rights of African-Americans in his community. Tisdale's civil rights record extends back to the 1960s, when he joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in protest marches. Mr. Tisdale was with Dr. King when the civil rights crusader was assassinated in Memphis.

Mr. Tisdale often faced repercussions for his outspoken nature. He received several death threats, some of which resulted in his newspaper office in Jackson being firebombed on two separate occasions. The last occurrence was in 1998, when gasoline was doused over furniture and molotov cocktails were thrown through the windows. The 1998 attack resulted in \$100,000 damages. Clinton Moses, of Jackson, later pleaded guilty to the crime and told authorities that Louis Armstrong, a member of the Jackson City Council paid him \$500 to commit the firebombing. Mr. Armstrong was never charged in the case. Throughout the years of adversity, Mr. Tisdale continued his courageous fight.

Despite sagging circulation of the Jackson Advocate over the past five years, the newspaper continued to receive several honors, including the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year, the Nation of Islam Freedom Fighter Award and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award. Mr. Tisdale's reputation spread far beyond the state of Mississippi. The National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade association of more than 200 black-oriented community newspapers, has named one of its top awards after him.

He took the lead in publishing articles on civil rights violations and was unrelenting in his fight against racism, injustice, discrimination and corruption by government officials. He never gave up on a story and in the end the truth always prevailed.

I will always remember Charles Tisdale as a man of extraordinary courage, who cared deeply about the struggles of African-Americans fighting for justice.

Please join me today in honoring a truly courageous civil rights leader, Mr. Charles Tisdale.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI NARDUS
GROEN

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, son, veteran, and community leader—Rabbi Nardus Groen, who passed away on Wednesday, June 13 after living a full life of community service.

Rabbi Nardus Groen was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on December 18, 1919 and grew to become a hero and a family man. As a member of the Dutch Underground during World War II, Rabbi Groen was captured by German soldiers multiple times and heroically managed to escape each time. One particular act of heroism occurred in 1940 when Groen was guarding a Jewish hospital in the Netherlands during its evacuation. Although the patients had escaped, Groen was protecting a group of Jewish nurses as the Nazis approached. Selflessly, he slipped on a Red Cross arm band and escorted the nurses into a room. When the Nazis asked who was in the room, Groen explained that he was caring for patients with Scarlet Fever. Fearing the illness, the Nazis spared the Jewish nurses, including Groen's future wife, the former Sipora Rodriguez-Lopes.

After World War II, Rabbi Nardus Groen served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina under the American Marine Corps. Following his stint with the Marines, Groen worked as a psychologist at a Jewish orphanage for Holocaust survivors. He helped countless youths cope with one of the greatest tragedies in human history. Two years later, he began to serve as a rabbi at the oldest congregation in the Western Hemisphere in Surinam. Groen led a mixed Sephardic Ashkenazic congregation in Surinam until 1952 when he served as a rabbi in Einhoven, the Netherlands. He became one of the foremost leaders of his community, uniting two different cultures in one synagogue.

Nardus Groen moved to Lansdale, PA as a renowned rabbi in 1963 where he served as Beth Israel Synagogue's rabbi for 13 years. He provided guidance and spiritual leadership to Beth Israel's community, helping his community grow to the vibrant Jewish center it is today. Groen moved back to Europe and retired in 1986 as the chief rabbi for the eastern six provinces of the Netherlands. He lived what he preached and will be remembered across the Netherlands.

After his retirement, Rabbi Groen and his loving wife Sipora lived in the Netherlands and Delray Beach, Florida after his retirement before permanently settling in Florida in 2005. Rabbi Groen spent his last years as a loving father to Marcel Groen, Leo Groen, Ruben Groen, David Groen, and Debra Groen; a loving brother to Meyers Groen and Sophia Groen; a loving grandfather and great grandfather to twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and a loving husband to Sipora Groen.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and remembering Rabbi Nardus Groen. Through his hard work, Rabbi Groen has spread hope across three continents and will be remembered as a strong leader, a caring mentor, and a true mensch.

HONORING MR. JOHNNY L. SUTTON,
FORMER MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF CIBOLO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Johnny L. Sutton, the former